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## THE LANGUAGE USED IN TALKING TO DOMESTIC ANIMALS—*Concluded*

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### III. LANGUAGE USED IN ADDRESSING CATTLE

#### a. IN THE FIELD

“Cusha, cusha, cusha, calling,  
Ere the early dews were falling,”

(*The High Tide.*)

Jean Ingelow's familiar lines embody a call to cows in the fields prevalent in Scotland ; it also obtained in Lincolnshire as early as 1571. It is sometimes used in combination as *cushy-cow*, and has given rise to a term of endearment, *cush-love*. It is found in England as *cushie*, and in Ulster county, New York, as *cush* (pronounced *kōōsh*). Philologists find the root of this word in the Icelandic *kusa*, *kussa*, or *kusla* to address a cow coaxingly.

In Scotland one hears the terms *prutchy* and *pruh*. Sir Walter Scott names the latter in his “Heart of Midlothian” (v. 11):

“Jeanie rejoiced, in the simplicity of her heart, to see her charge once more, and the mute favorites of our heroine, Gowans and the others, acknowledged her presence by lowing, turning around their broad and decent brows, when they heard her well known: *Pruh*, my leddy, *pruh*, my woman.”

*Prutchy*, also spelled *prrshe*, is said to be a survival of the French “Approchez,” which, like other French terms, were introduced in the time of Mary Stuart.

Another Scotch call is recorded by Jamieson: “*Hove*, used in calling a cow to be milked, sometimes as *hove-leddy*; anciently

in the Lothians this was *prutchy* and *prutch-leddy*. Hove is evidently meant in the sense of stop, halt" (Scottish Dictionary).

From Warwickshire is reported the call *koup*, which seems to be related to *kope*, current in England and the United States. This word, as already stated under calls to horses, is a contraction of "come up."

"Come uppe Whitefoot, come uppe Lightfoot,  
Come uppe Jetty, rise and follow  
Jetty to the milking shed."

From Cornwall, England, is reported *trish*, *trish*; from another part of the west of England *agayt*; from Shropshire *ka-how-up* and *ka-how-oo*.

The calls reported from different States of the Union are equally diverse. In Connecticut I have heard (and used) *sake*, *sake* (*a* as in cake); in New Jersey, Maryland, Iowa, and elsewhere this takes the form *sook*, *sook*, *sookey*; in Virginia and Alabama it becomes *sookow*, *sookow*; in central Illinois it is *sook-white*<sup>1</sup>; in Maine the call is *koeb*; in Virginia *coo* (Scotch for cow); in Alabama *co-boys* (come boys); in Maryland *co-wench*, which the negroes of Louisiana and Georgia call *quo-wensh*.

A common call in Connecticut is *boss*, *boss*; *come boss*; also shortened to *co-boss*. This is also reported from Michigan and Vermont. Its classical origin is obvious. The diminutive *bossie* is used in calling calves.

Some New England farmers call the field cattle with *koh*, *koh* (sometimes pronounced *kof*), which is said to be a survival of the ancient Persian *koh*, meaning cow. It is certainly related to the Danish *koe*, the Dutch *koe*, Swedish *ko*, and German *kuh*. Calves in New England are called *cub*, *cubby*; in southern Louisiana among the Acadians, *shikay*, *shikay*. The Acadians (or "Cajens," as the natives pronounce the word) use *chā*, *chā* (*a* as in far), to call cattle for feeding. In taking a herd any distance the leading horseman calls *ōō-ōō*, *ōō-ōō*, meaning "follow."

In the Prussian province of Saxony cows are called from the pasture with *kūmōtsch*, *kūmōtsch*, *kūmōtsch kū-ū-ū*. The word *kūmōtsch* is often pronounced *kūm-motsch*, the first syllable of which is undoubtedly "komm," from the verb "kommen," analogous to the English "co" for "come" in *co-boss*. In addressing calves the diminutive *mōtschchen* is used.

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<sup>1</sup> *Sook* is also commonly used to call swine. See § v.

Grimm gives *köss, köss*; Weinhold, *lo, lo*; and *bus, busch* for calling calves.

In the Tyrol oxen are called *hou, hou!* also *he hi! he he! tsohüla, he, he!* sometimes also *busch busch!* Cows are called by a variety of terms, viz, *kuele, tscha, tscha*; *tschô, tschô*; *tschga tschga*; *kös, kös*; *kox, koux*; *kul, kul*; *kus, kusele*. And calves, *higerle, ge ge ge*; *zügele, zügela*.

In Denmark cattle in the field are called by the familiar *bosse, bosse* (sometimes combined with *ko*, as *bosse-ko*) and by *kippe kippe*, the latter chiefly to calves; in Norway by the words *kom baana*, which means "come children." In the Ruthenian dialect the call is *tloñ, tloñ*; in Bulgaria a peculiar sound made with relaxed lips and represented by the letters *tbbü*; this is also used to call sheep. In Esthonia the call is *vitsi* and *wissi*.

In the Polish provinces of Russia a variety of terms is used to call cattle: *bys, by*; *nā, nā, jatosia nā*; *biega, anuze, nuze*; *dgo, dgo*; *oha, and maly, maly, mala* (*mala* = small). The Polish for cow is *krowa*. In Lettish cows and calves in the field are called by the terms *bbutze* or *bbutzino*, the *b* being rolled when pronounced; also with *gutschu* (*guros* = cow). In Russian the call to cows is *tpruko* and to calves *tprutja*.

In the Illyrian language cows are called with *ma, ma* and *kra, vus*.

In Van, Turkish Armenia, cattle are called with *purre purre* (the *r* being a lip vibration). Calves are called with *burje*.

#### b. DRIVING HERDS OF CATTLE

In Scotland dairy cows are driven forward with the cry *ppp-oo-leddy*, and cattle with *pr-r-r-ugh*, the exact sounds being difficult to represent with type.

In New England one hears the shout *whay* (away?), in Maryland *hye*, in Vermont *wo-heesh*, in the western plains from Nebraska to Idaho *hoy*.

Cowboys in the western States, when not swearing at their herds, often sing a kind of monotonous lullaby to engage their attention and to prevent a stampede.

Mexicans and Indians wishing to drive any animals away from their persons cry *ugashee!*

In Spain the cry is *xau* (pronounced *hah-oo*).

Correspondents in the Polish provinces of Russia send the following words used to drive cattle: *hō, hō*; *a he, anō, muzia*; *a scio ha*; *oha, ucha*; *a dzie-ha*; *a de hajda*, and to drive cows near Krakau, *a gdzie, gdzie*. Calves are driven forward and from the person by the cry *a kec, a luszki* (Podolia).

In Lettish cows are driven into their stalls with the command *kur kuhti* (kuhts = stall), and they are driven out with the terms *kura ahra* or *kura lauka*; another authority gives *usch, usch*. In the Russian language cows are driven by the cry *cylja* (pronounced seelyah).

In the Illyrian tongue cows are driven from the person with *isko, usko, hao*, and commanded to stand still with *gok* and *luc*. Calves are called *pos, voc* and driven off with *odbi*.

In Zululand the natives driving cattle to water shout *tyi*, whence the verb "tyikiza," to drive with the sound *tyi* (Colenso's Zulu-English Dictionary, 1861).

In Van, Turkey, cows and calves are driven with *ōhō* or *hō*, sometimes *wōhō*.

#### C. DRIVING YOKED OXEN

To start and hasten yoked oxen the terms used are mainly the same as those recorded in connection with horses. One hears *go long, get up, steady*, and the like. From Shropshire is reported *hie-up*.

As with horses, the driver of a yoke of oxen walks at the left-hand side and directs them with the same calls, *haw* and *gee*. In Yorkshire *haw* is replaced by *prow* or *prou*, sometimes varied as *prow-in*, meaning in toward the driver (Atkinson). In New England farmers often name their nigh-ox "Buck," and their off-ox "Bright," so one hears the commands *haw-buck* and *gee-bright*.

To turn yoked oxen to the left the following words are used in the places named: *whoa, back haw round*, Michigan; *come brad*, Maine; *hock* or *hock-wo-haw*, western Massachusetts.

To turn yoked oxen to the right the almost universal term in England and America is *gee*. Formerly in Yorkshire the teamsters used the term *hop* or *hop-off*. This is the same as the Danish *hop* used to urge a horse, and has given rise to the old saw, "It is usual to cry to a stumbling man or beast hop! hop!" (Kuttner, quoted by Wedgwood).

From Maryland come the terms *wheel* and *trim* to turn oxen to the right.

To quiet a cow while being milked men say *soh, soh*, in a low coaxing tone, as in Trowbridge's lines :

“ When to her task the milkmaid goes,  
Soothingly calling  
So, boss, so, boss, so! so! so!”

(*Evening at the Farm, St. 3.*)

To induce the cow to move her leg into position for milking the command is *hoist* (pronounced *hyst*).

In the Saxon Erzgebirge yoked cattle are urged forward with *hî, hîo* ; stopped with *ê* and *ôhâ* ; slowed up with *ahôi* and *hôi* ; turned to the right with *hot* and to the left with *wist*.

Grimm gives *hott* and *hatt* for Austria, *hot hut* as Platt-Deutsch, *diwo diau, di dist*, and *tschoa dist* as Bavarian for directing oxen to the right.

In East Prussia the terms for right and left respectively are *heitsch* and *zâ* ; in the Austrian Tyrol, *hotta* and *wist, wista*, and the team is hastened by the cry *hî* and backed by *hëss, hëss, z'rugg!* (abbreviation of *zurück*).

In Württemberg the command to go on is *hü* or *jü* ; to the left, *hot* or *hotü* ; to the right, *hüscht* ; to halt, *öh* or *öha* ; to back, *heuv* or *heuvor*.

To turn oxen to the right in the southern provinces of the Austrian Empire, where there are many languages of Slav affinities, the command is *kokorr he*, and to the left *sa sa kseb ho*.

In Bulgaria the ox-drivers call out *haid* (pronounced height) to start the animals and *tü, tü* or *tschü* to hasten them. There are no distinctive words corresponding to “haw” and “gee,” but drivers cry *dqjah* in both cases, and strike the ox on that side from which he is to turn, *i. e.*, on the left if he is to go to the right. To send oxen to their places by the wagon-pole when hitching them, the command *hosch* is given.

In Hungary oxen are urged forward by the call *chalis-ho* (pronounced shalee).

In Greece oxen are commanded to go in a contrary direction from that they are taking by the words *o-allëos*, and they are urged to go faster with *oh!* (repeated).

In the Polish provinces of Russia oxen are hastened by the cries *ho, ho, watch, watchaboo*, and by *anu* and *hej*. The yoked pair is directed to the left by the terms *hee, sa-sa, ocib-kseb, ksob, bowe-sa, cive, wista* (also used for horses), *heys, sob, and kse*. To

turn them to the right the commands are *ho*, *hotte*; *ods!* *ha-cia*, *kseb-ocib*, *ocib-sa*; *cza*, *cabe*; *hec*, *ec*, *ec*. Yoked oxen are stopped by the vibratory *brrr*, so common in central Europe, and by the following expressions: *scie-ha*, *prrr*; *hep*, *scia*; *smukaj sie*; and the plain German command: *steh' sofort*.

In Switzerland oxen are hastened with *hü* or *häj* (Aargau); commanded to go slower with *hor*, and to turn to the left with *hüsht*, to the right with *hot*, and to stand still *óha*.

In the Illyrian language oxen are called with *ma*, *ma*, *volo*; turned to the left with *ost*, and to the right with *ca*; backed with *núj*, *stu*, *znazad*, and commanded to stand still with *jo*, *ja*, *joja*.

In central India and the Deccan yoked bullocks are stopped with the cry *bma*, a sound explained in section II, *b*.

#### IV. LANGUAGE USED IN ADDRESSING SHEEP AND GOATS

“*Ho! nanny, ho! nanny,*  
*Nanny winna ye bide?*  
*But aye the louder she called nanny*  
*The braider grew the tide.”*

This stanza records the most widely used English call to sheep in the field. It is reported from New England, Georgia, Maryland, and Virginia. It is sometimes shortened to *nan*, *nan*, and sometimes pronounced *co-nanny*, meaning “come-nanny.” In some parts of New England and western New York the farmers cry *k'day*, or *k'dick*, accenting the second syllable.

In Derbyshire, England, the usual call is *hotch*, *hotch*, and in Warwickshire *s'how*.

The Creoles of southern Louisiana, true to their French origin, call *mouton*, *mouton*.

In Texas the Mexican sheep-herders, who are usually Indians with more or less Castilian blood in their veins, have a peculiar cry to attract the attention of the timid sheep without stampeding them, repeating rapidly in a high falsetto *hillo-heello-hillo*. Hearing this the sheep prick up their ears, look in the direction whence comes the sound, and watch; they then see the gestures made with arms, hats, etc., to indicate the way they should go, and they move along all together in a jog trot. This cry has no effect on cattle, and is not used in talking to them.

The call to sheep in Bavaria is *bez*, *bez* and *le*, *le* (Weinhold); in Prussia it is *hammel* (= sheep); in Denmark *mikke*, also *bāāh*, in imitation of their own cry; in Bohemia *nannanana* (precisely

the English *nanny*); in Spain *chee-vy*; in Esthonia and Livonia *utt*; in Greece *tpioja* (j soft); in Finland three terms at least are used to call sheep—*takkona*, *kutu* (Finnish), and *limbi* (Swedish).

In Switzerland (Aargau) the call to sheep is *heli, se, se, se*. In the Austrian Tyrol several words are employed: *rrr*, *tschoff*, *tschoff*; *rrr tschütt, tschütt*; *legga, legga, horla*.

In Esthonia the cry is *utte, utte*; in Polish Russia *siep, siep prrr*, and the sound symbolized by *brrr*, but in a shrill key. To drive sheep forward the exclamation used is *hej, hej*; in the province of Courland, Russia, Lithuanian shepherds call their sheep with *ait, ait* (*aita* = sheep), and lambs with *burr, burr*; they are driven into folds with *gitz, gitiz*; another authority gives *stig*.

In Illyrian sheep are driven with *bía be*; lambs are called with *bebo*, and driven off with *terke*, and commanded to leave their mothers with *kit kit*, and *kit, lûc*.

In Van, Turkey, sheep are called with *hürr-rr*, the *r* being prolonged and rolled; sometimes *hurr-é* and *é-hurr*; also *o-ho-ho-ho!* To drive them away the peasants shout *yeree, yerree* and *kuss, kuss*. Rams are invited to fight each other with *hull, hull!* Lambs are called with *burr-burr-burr*, the *r* vibrating with a peculiar motion of the lips. The animals are driven with *pükh, pükh*.

### *Calls to Goats*

The call to goats used in Holland and Germany, *sik* (pronounced seek), is at least two centuries old, for it occurs in an interesting passage found in the curious work of Andreas Gryphius, entitled "Horribilicribrifax," published in Breslau without date, but before 1664. The passage is as follows:

*Cyrilla*: Nu wollet ihr denn auff den Abend kommen?

*Sempronius*: Ἀσμένως ποιήσω.

*Cyrilla*: Nicht zu Herr Asman, sondern zu Jungfer Coelestinan.

*Sempronius*: Sic, sic, sic, sic, sic, sic, sic, sic, sic, sic-

*Cyrilla*: Je Herr ist doch keine Ziege da!

### *Translation*

*Cy.*: Will you come, then, this evening?

*S.*: Gladly will I do so!

*Cy.*: Not to Mr Asman, but to Miss Coelestina.

*S.*: Sic, sic, sic [etc].

*Cy.*: But the man is not a goat!



Grimm gives also *hödel, hödel*; *luzel, luzel*; *zub, zub*; *leck, leck*; correspondents in eastern Prussia report *nippel*, and in Saxony *hep, hep*. In Denmark two calls are used—*mads* for the males and *metto* for the females; in Norway the call is *kille*; in Bulgaria *miki-ki-kau*.

In the Austrian Tyrol a number of calls are employed: *tschá, ges, ges, ges*, *rrrr, za, za, za*; *gusile, ge ge ge*; *gus, gus, gus*; *pscha, pscha: es es esele*; *hottile le le*; *gile, gile*; *russ, salz salz salz* (salt).

In Illyrian, goats are called with *ve kejsko*, and ordered to stand still when being milked with *tir, tiri*.

In Lettish the call is *giz giz* or *mik, mik*.

In Van, Turkey, goats are called with *e-e*, the *e* slightly aspirated with a guttural *he, he*; also with *kud, kud* and *gud, gud* (kids). The animals are driven away with *yehe-yehe*, and ordered to stop with *dush*.

## V. LANGUAGE USED IN ADDRESSING SWINE

The claims made by some persons that hogs are gifted with superior intelligence seem to be supported by the fact that they comprehend an unusually large vocabulary. Witness the following imperfect list of words used in calling swine in England and America:

Tig, tig, tig .....	Northamptonshire (Baker).
Kiss, kiss, kiss.....	Hants.
Check.....	England.
Jack.....	Cleveland dialect, England.
Pooick, or peuck.....	Shropshire.
Chooggy.....	West of England.
Choog, or chook.....	New England.
Chawk.....	Maryland.
Chaw-awg.....	Virginia.
Chee-ôô, ôô ôô, prolonged with musical intonation.....	Virginia.
Goof.....	Western New York.
Woots.....	Pennsylvania (Dutch).
Wuts.....	Tennessee.
Walk-wo-ooo.....	Georgia.
Whoop.....	Georgia.
Whook.....	Alabama.
Chou.....	Louisiana.
Piggy, piggy.....	Connecticut.
Pig-ôô-êê.....	Virginia.

Pig-ôô-y.....	Iowa.
Pig-oo, pig-ee.....	Georgia.
Gwoop gwoopie.....	Georgia.
Pee-kô-ô .....	North Carolina.
Soo-ee.....	Maryland, Iowa, Louisiana.
Sookey, sookey.....	Ohio.
Sug, sug.....	Provincial English.

The last in this list has engaged the serious study of philologists. Wedgwood finds its affinities in the Old High German; *sû*, the German *sau*, the Dutch *soegh*, the Anglo-Saxon *sûgu*, the Danish *suggie*, the Swedish *sugga*, and the Old Norse *syr*, a sow; and another authority finds its root in the Hindu word for pig, *soo'a*.

A correspondent writes me from Courland, Russia, that in Lettish swine are called *zuhka*, and the common call is *zuk*. Grimm records *sug*, and a Swiss philologist states that the word *sugg* is used to call hogs in the neighborhood of Basle.

In Maryland some farmers have private calls for their hogs which are recognized by their own animals only; others use horns to call the swine. Mr W. W. C. writes if he goes to feed his hogs on Sunday not in his working clothes they do not recognize him, and give short grunts of fear, but as he draws near to them they change to gentle grunts of satisfaction.

Returning to central Europe, the philologist Grimm gives also *wuzi*, *wuzi*; *huss*, *huss*, *da* (Rhine provinces); *hutz* (Swabia); *hutsh* (Austria), as well as *sug*, *furl sug*. Weinhold records for Bavaria the analogous terms *suck* and *zu*, as well as *huz*, *huz*; and in his Allmannische Grammatik he gives *hatz*, *hatsch*, *häss*, and *hes*.

In the Prussian province of Saxony the call is *kischchen*, or *küschchen*; in the island of Rugen the cry is *mutt*, whence the islanders are called "Muttländer." In East Prussia swine are called *kowmei*, or *kownei*; also *tut*, *tut*; little pigs are called *nitschchen*; also *nitsch ferkelschen*, *nitsch*!

In the Austrian Tyrol the calls are *natschele*, *natsch*, *natsch*, and *natsch*, *tschu*, *tschu*, *tschu*; in Switzerland (Aargau), *gus*, *gus*, and *häs*, *häs*; in Bohemia the call to swine is *choo-néek*; in Denmark, *gyss*, *gyss*, and *oeff*, *oeff*; in Bulgaria, *gussi*, *gussi*.

In Finland they call swine *naski* (Wedgwood); in Esthonia, *possa*, *possa nots-o*; in Polish Russia a large number of terms is used, viz, *mali*, *mali*, *maluskie*, *mamalki*; *maluskie*, *malu*, *malu*;

*nit, nit, nitchen*; *lusi, lusi*; *lut, lut, lutka*; *nydki, ny, duszki, nyku, mysiu*; *tschu*; *szkon*; *n'sia malutkie*; *kuc, kuc, kon*; *ksuna, ksu*; *luty, luty*; *gudzi*, the last two being addressed to little pigs. Swine are driven with the cries *a sive-ha*; *sive, sive*; *ciu, ciu*; *a cio, a ciu*.

In Hungary the call to swine is *gucza ne, ne, ne*; in Greece, *tzeh* (tongue against base of teeth with nasal intonation).

In the Russian tongue the call to swine is *chrju* (pronounced kryoo).

In Illyrian swine are called with *gic, gic, puj*, and driven with *us, use, ujdo*. But little pigs are called with *pac, âme*, and driven off with *skike*.

In Spain swine are summoned by the call *chee-ro*.

In the Hawaiian islands, where swine are indigenous, the natives call them thus: *u, u, uka, uka, ci, ci*. The native name for hog is *puaa* (vowels pronounced as in Italian).

Besides the language used in calling the animals, there are "voices wherewith swine are scared" (Cotgrave). *Hou* was current in 1673; *whoo-ee* was used in Northamptonshire, and reappears in Connecticut as *whee*. *Sty* is reported from Yorkshire, and *tch, tch* from the same place; this symbolizes a sound made by suddenly removing the tongue from pressing the inside of the upper teeth and the forward part of the roof of the mouth, at the same time inhaling gently.

In Courland, the Lettish swineherds drive the animals with *usch, usch*.

## VI. LANGUAGE USED IN ADDRESSING CATS

### CALLING CATS

*Puss* and *pussy* seem to be well nigh universally used in calling cats and kittens. It is current in Germany, Holland (poes), and Turkey, and the abbreviation *ps-s-s* (sound made by expelling air softly through slightly parted lips, approaching a whistle) is used in Greece. In Switzerland (Aargauer dialect) it takes the form of *büs, büs*. In Bulgaria it becomes *pisi, pisi*. (Bulgarians also use *mitsi, mitsi*.) Some lexicographers claim to find the root of *puss* in Persian (*puisje* = cat), Kurd, Turkish, Danish, Irish, and Gaelic.<sup>1</sup>

In France cats are generally called *minet* or *minette*, according

<sup>1</sup> Emil Seytter, "Barnyard Voices," in *Our Animal Friends*, January, 1894.

to the sex. In Switzerland the analogous *minni* and *minno* are used (N. and Q., 5 s., iv, 316). In the Tyrol the call is *minni* and *minne*, as well as *mui*, *mui*, and *mutz*, *mutz*, and *hazi*, *haz*.

In Germany one hears cats called with *mis*, *mis* and *miz*, *mize*. Weinhold (Allmannische Gram.) gives *mim*. Grimm (Deutsche Gram.) gives also *minni*; *minz*; *mudel*; *mütz*, *mutz-zi*; *zitz*; *gusch*; *guss*; *gös*, as well as *pus*.

In Denmark the call is *miss* or *kiss*. The latter is also current in Finland and Russia.

In Esthonia and Livonia the cry to summon cats is *küss* (practically the same as *kiss*), *küsu*, and *küso*. In Courland the Lettish for cat is *kakis*, but the children name the animal *pinzis* and call it with *pinze*. *Kiz* is, however, also in use. In the Illyrian dialect cats are called to the person with *mac*, *mac*, *mic*.

In Polish Russia *puya* is used as equivalent to "kitty," besides the following calls: *kci*; *kizia*, *ci*, *ci*, *ci*, and *kec*.

In Spain the animals are summoned with *miz* (pronounced *meeth*).

In Van, Turkey in Asia, cats are called with *pusho*, *push*, in which we note the Oriental root of *puss*.

In Arabic-speaking countries they call cats with *moos*, *moos*.

In Japan cats are called by the word *ko-zo*, *ko-zo*, which means "little priest."

When cats were introduced into the Hawaiian islands the natives heard the English call them *pussy*. Now there is no *s* in the Hawaiian alphabet, and the nearest approach to pussy the aborigines can articulate is *poki*; so one hears the call *poki*, *poki*, *mai*, *mai miao*, "mai" meaning "here." To those unfamiliar with the exigencies of the Hawaiian tongue, *poki* may seem a rather far-fetched translation of pussy, but it is fully as reasonable as the name given by the natives to my friend Judge Hitchcock, who is always called Hiki-koki (pronounced Heekee-kokee).

#### DRIVING AWAY CATS

To drive cats from the person, *scat!* is the familiar expletive in England and America. Wedgwood records also *cass*.

In Finland the exclamation is *kutis*; in Prussia, *küz* (*kas* in Old German); in Hungary, *tsi*; in the Ruthenian dialect, *a-kotä* (*kotä* meaning cat); in Illyrian, *püs*, and *cic* or *sic*; in Bulgarian, *tbus* or *tbubbs*; in Lettish, *skiz* (pronounced skits), also *schkitz* and

*kitz*; in Russian, *brys*; in Polish, *psik*, a *psik*, besides a *kota*, as above.

In Switzerland one hears *chaz*! (guttural *ch*). In Spain the exclamation is *zape*!

## VII. LANGUAGE USED IN TALKING TO BIRDS

### a. HAWKS

The gentle art of falconry, characterized by Washington Irving as "the generous sport of hunting carried into the skies," has given rise to an entire language of its own. Not only do the different classes of hawks receive distinguishing names at various periods of their lives, but peculiar terms are applied to the parts of their bodies, as if wings, legs, and tails were names too common for the noble bird.

The calls used to control their movements, in England, are not numerous. In training young falcons one writer records the cry *hi-away lass* (or boy), *hi-away*, used to induce the bird to approach the falconer, and he naively adds: "If the birds understood English it would be perfect insanity to employ cries which bid departure while they require approach." Another call to fetch the bird to the person is *yo-ho-hup*, *yohup*, *yohup*.

To encourage the hawk to attack, falconers cry *au vol* or a *la volée*, also *hoo-ha*, *ha*, *ha*, *ha*, in a shrill tone. When the quarry is killed they cry *whoop* or *who-whoop*.

To make a hawk stop to the lure the cry is *so-hoe* (Halliwell).

Sir Walter Scott, in the "Fair Maid of Perth," writes: "As the bonnet-maker spoke there was heard on the left hand the cry *So, so, waw waw waw*, being the shout of a falconer to his hawk."

A friend sends me another quotation:

"Then mark the swift hawk,  
See him now take his stoop,  
Down, down, goes the game,  
Call them in, *la leup*, *la leup*."

(*La Leup*, or the Gallant Falconer, by M. P. Andrews.)

### b. POULTRY

#### *Calling*

In spite of the severely critical statement of Earle that "chick is a young and deductive singular derived from the imaginary

plural chicken" (Phil. Engl. Tongue), the young fowls respond to the call "chick, chick," very promptly, in hopes of receiving accustomed food. Their range of intelligence, in the United States at least, seems to be limited, for the number of calls reported is small.

In England the calls *chuck, chuck*, or *coop, coop*, prevail; in Virginia, *coo-che, coo-che*; in Pennsylvania, *pee, pee*. This latter call is widely employed, being reported from Germany, Spain (as *pi, pi*), Bulgaria, Hungary, Bavaria, and the Tyrol. In the Austrian province the term is used in combination, thus: *pulla, pi, pi*; the call *pullele, pul pul*, also occurs there.

In some parts of Germany the poultry are called with *tick, tick*; in Prussia, *püt, püt*, and young chickens with *tük түк* (Grimm) and *schip, schip*, the latter being an imitation of their own cry. In eastern Prussia hens are called with *kluckschen, kluck, kluck*; also *tippchen, tipp, tipp*. Grimm records also *pi, pi* and *tiet, tiet*. Weinhold reports from Bavaria *bibi, bibeli, bidli*; *pi, pi*, and *pul, pul*.

In Denmark the call is *pootle*; in Holland, *kip, kip*; in Bohemia, *tyoo*; in Bulgaria, *tiri, tiri*.

In the Ruthenian tongue hens are called *tsupp, tsupp*; in Esthonia, *tibu, tibü* or *tibbo*. In Polish Russia several cries are employed: *tiu, tiu* (also spelled *tju*); *dzib, dzib*; *dziub*; *dziu, duski, dziubuchna*; *kur, kur* (*kura* = hen); *kuruchna*; *cip, cip* (*chip* = hen); chickens are called with *chibooken*; *cipcie, cipuchni*, and *czurr, r, r* (*kurcze* = chicken). In Russian the term is *zyp*. In Lettish, hens are called with *put, put*; *zib, zib, tik, tik*, and *tipp, tipp* (or *tib*). The hen in Lettish is "wista," but in child-language *ziba*.

In Switzerland (Basler dialect) hens are called with *bibi, bibi*.

In the Illyrian language hens are called with *pila, koko*, and *cuk*, and driven away with *is*. Little chickens, however, are called with *pipi, pili*, and *pilo*.

In Greece poultry are called with the click *xlk*.

In Van, Turkey, hens and cocks are called with *juju-juju*; in Madras, with *bo, bo, bo*.

In the Hawaiian islands the natives cry *ke, ke, ko, ko, mai mai mai* (= here). In Japan poultry is called with *to to to*, an abbreviation of the word *tori*, meaning "bird."

*Driving*

"The voices wherewith we drive away Pulleine," in the quaint language of Cotgrave (1673), also vary greatly in divers countries. The most common exclamation in the United States is *shoo, shoo*, sometimes spelled *chou* and *shue*. Jamieson considers this related to the German "scheuch en." Grimm gives the same word, spelling it *schû* (M. H. D.); also *huschk* and *tisz*.

In Japan the cry to frighten off fowls is *shi, shi*; in Esthonia, *kuis*; in Bulgaria, *kasch* (pronounced kawsh).

In Polish Russia poultry is driven off by the terms *k'schoo*, *kurce*, *ausz* (= out), *a gule*, *a sia*. In Courland Lithuanians cry *tisch tisch* and *tisch lauka*.

In Van, Turkey, hens and cocks are driven with *kush, kush, kusha, kusha*, and they are "invited to fight" with *dig, dig, dig*.

## C. CALLS TO DUCKS

In that marvelous English classic "Lorna Doone" John Ridd's sister Annie visits the duck-pond, and calls *dilly, dilly, einy, einy, ducksey*, which Blackmore calls the "national ducks' anthem." *Dilly, dilly* is also current in the United States; *diddle* is reported from Virginia, and *widdy* from North Carolina.

In Prussia, ducks are called with *fit, fit* (pronounced feet); in Westphalia with *wip, wip* (weep); Grimm gives *pile, pile* (see Lettish below) *bile, bile*; *ant, ant* (Austria); *nat. nat.*, and *lip, lip*. Weinhold gives *dis, dis*, and *schlick*. In East Prussia the call is *wittchen, witt witt*, and the ducks are driven with *kaatsch* (compare the Polish *kas*).

In Holland the call to ducks is *poele, poele* (pronounced pool); in Bohemia, *leedle*; in Denmark, *rap, rap*.

In Esthonia the ducks are called with *pülo, pülo*; in Polish Russia there are several calls in use: *dzieci* (which simply means "children"), *kys, kys*, or *kes, kes, kesiurki, herus, herus*; and *kas, kas kacia*; also *katschooken*. *Tas, tas* is also used as in the Ruthenian dialect. (The Polish for duck is *kaczka*.) Ducks are driven away by the cries *kac, kac*; *harus, harus, herus*; and *a tas*, or *a herus*.

In Lettish a duck is "*pihle*," and the birds are called with *pihl, pihl*, and driven away with *nisch, nisch, lauka*.

In the Illyrian language ducks are called with *pat, pat*, and driven off with *pâto*; young ducklings, however, are called with *li, li*, or *lig, lig*, and driven away with *pâtligo*.

In Ruthenian ducks are called with *tasz*, and in Hungarian with *katch*.

In the Hawaiian islands the natives use the word *kaka*, this being the word for duck.

In the Madras Presidency ducks are called with *bath, bath*.

#### d. CALLS TO GEESE

Geese are called in Cumberland, England, with *yuly*, and in some other shires with *white*.

In Germany they use the terms *wulle, hulle, rusch* (Grimm), *grus*, and *wes* (Weinhold); in Westphalia, *rir*, and in Prussia, *hülē, hülē* (often pronounced *hīlē*), and *trile*; also *hösse*.

In Bohemia the call is *husz* (goose = *husa*), which is also used by those speaking Ruthenian. In Bulgaria the geese are called *pa pa* and *gir, gir*; in Hungary, *wurri*. The last word is also used for the same purpose in Switzerland near Basle.

In Polish a goose is *ges*, and a gosling *gaska*. They are called with *cygo, cygo*; *pilus, pilus*, and *hus, hus*; when driven in flocks the cry is *lela, lela*. In Courland geese are called with *an, an*, or *anit*, or *annin*; also *kāne*, a word of Finnish origin. The word *gusch* is likewise employed, and the philologist Bielenstein, writing of the Lettish tongue, remarks that *gusch* is truly Lettish, and corresponds to *süss* = goose, except that the original guttural of the first part is preserved; compare, for example, *guogas* in north Courland and *kuasch* in Livonia, which means goose (Die Lettische Sprache, Berlin, 1864). In Courland they drive flocks of geese with *ell-ell-ell*.

In the Illyrian geese are called with *gus, gus, gaz*, and driven with *zug, zuga*; the goslings are called with *zug, zug*, and driven with *zug, guso*.

Geese and ducks are driven forward in Prussia with the exclamation *hutsch, hutsch*, and in Russia with *tjagu, tjagy*.

#### e. CALLS TO TURKEYS

In some counties of England the farmers call turkeys with the words *popo, popo* (Notes and Queries). In Georgia and Virginia the common call is *pee, pee*.



In Bulgaria the peasants cry *mǎnǎ, mǎnǎ*. In Polish Russia a number of terms are used : *kur, kur* ; *trus, trus* ; *trr, trr*, or *tur, tur* ; *gul, gul*, or *gulu gulu*, or *glu, glu, gulusie*, and *pul, pul*.

In the Hawaiian islands the call is *kolo, kolo, pokeo pokeo*, the native word for turkey being *pelehu*.

In Prussia, hens, ducks, geese, and other barnyard fowl are frightened away with *hüsch* or *hsch*, and smaller birds, as pigeons, with *brrr*.

#### VIII. SUNDRY ANIMALS

OSTRICHES in South Africa are called with the cry *koo-ǎ, koo-ǎ*.

DOVES are called by those who speak Illyrian *vit, vit*, and peacocks *bibi bibice*.

BUFFALOES in Van, Turkey in Asia, are ordered to lie down with *nukh* ; they are called with *ow* and *ǒǒ* ; also *now* ; they are driven away with *yě* and *yě-wo* ; when yoked they are driven with *dě* or *děh*, and they are warned against the attack of another buffalo by the exclamation *woo, woo, woo* repeated quickly.

ELEPHANTS.—G. C. Conklin, elephant-trainer with Barnum and Bailey, gave me the following terms used in controlling elephants : *mile* = to walk ; *shy* = to turn from the person ; *come in* = to turn toward the person ; *tut-steady* = to stop ; *tut-back* = to back. Elephants know their names and respond to them when called.

Some animal-trainers use French words almost exclusively.

#### IX. CONCLUSION

A knowledge of the language used in addressing domestic animals might save travelers some inconvenience ; for when horses, for example, are trained to obey a certain command they naturally do so under all circumstances. A correspondent writes : " Driving a kind and gentle horse just purchased, I cried *whoa* ! to stop him, but he backed, and the louder I cried *whoa*, the faster he backed, until the carriage was upset and I was thrown out. Then the animal stopped in a moment, having perceived something was wrong. On inquiry of his former master I learned the horse had been trained to back at the cry *whoa* ! "

A lady traveling in Norway had a somewhat similar experience ; in trying to dismount from a horse she caught her boot-nails in the perforated stirrup iron, and while endeavoring to

free her foot she cried *whoa*! This British ejaculation had the effect of frightening the little beast, and he set off at full speed, to the lady's discomfiture.

Since the same sound is used in Germany to stop horses as is used in Italy to start them, viz, *brrrr*, it is conceivable that an Italian horse transported to Germany might bolt in response to the Teutonic command to stop. Several reversals of this character have been reported to me; the click, *xlk*, used to start horses in the United States, is employed to stop them in India; the chirp, *psp*, used in the United States to urge horses forward, is used to stop them in South Africa; and the *hue* and *dia* used in France to direct animals to the right and left respectively are said by the lexicographers Mahn, Pictet, and Littré to be employed in the reverse sense in Switzerland.

In the preceding pages an important feature of the language used in talking to animals has been unavoidably omitted. I refer to the musical intonation which gives to each cry a special character having great influence with the animal addressed. In calling a given animal from a distance the cry becomes a loud shout in a shrill key and greatly prolonged, but in speaking to the same animal near at hand the same term is uttered in a soft, low tone and coaxingly.

A study of this very imperfect collection of words used in talking to domestic animals in different parts of the world leads me to the general conclusion that the terms used in calling them are generally corruptions of the ancient names of the animals themselves (sometimes with a prefix as "come"), and that the rest of the language is made up of obsolete expressions originally forming part of ordinary speech in the infancy of its development, which have been preserved through this special usage, together with inarticulate sounds and calls having their origin in the attempt of man to lower language to the comprehension of the domesticated animals, and to imitate their own cries. All these words are subject to the same influences that lead to the development of dialects, thus producing transformations not easily traced; moreover, these changes are quite radical, inasmuch as the language is unwritten, and is perpetuated only by the *lore* of the *folk*.